

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Sen. Schauer: Stop Trashing Michigan *New Report Stresses Need to Adopt Dumping Charge*

LANSING -- Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Calhoun and Jackson Counties) renewed his call to the Michigan Legislature today to pass strict anti-dumping legislation to curb the flow of Canadian and out of state trash into Michigan. A report issued this week by the Department of Environmental Quality shows that while trash originated from within the state is down three percent from 2002, imported trash is up 23 percent.

“As citizens of this great state we must do all that we can to protect the natural resources that we all enjoy,” said Sen. Schauer. “As the report shows, there is much more that can be done to encourage recycling and cut down on the large amounts of trash that threaten our lakes and environment.”

Sen. Schauer is the cosponsor of legislation introduced in the Senate that will create a \$6 per ton dumping charge for all trash sent to Michigan landfills. The surcharge will raise about \$100 million per year, which will be returned to municipalities to encourage recycling programs and fund other environmental and local needs.

According to the report, Michigan is currently 41st in the country in the amount of state resources dedicated to recycling and is one of 28 states without a dumping fee, even though Michigan is third highest importer of solid waste in the nation.

A recent Congressional Research Service report indicated that states that raise dumping charges cut trash imports significantly. Pennsylvania alone was able to cut its trash imports by 14 percent by raising dumping fees.

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Overall, 32 percent of waste in Michigan landfills comes from outside the state. The 23 percent increase between 2003-2004 is equal to approximately 2.5 million cubic yards or enough trash to bury a football field more than 1,000 feet deep.

At a press conference held in Lansing on Monday with House Democrats, Sen. Schauer also endorsed the House package of bills that aim to curb the importation of Canadian and out of state trash into Michigan.

“We can’t wait any longer to stop the trashing of our great state,” said Sen. Schauer. “The problems resulting from the large amounts of trash coming into Michigan from other states and countries are only going to get worse if we sit on this any longer.”

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Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.